

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. A complete set of the claims is separately attached and numbered 40 through 115 (23 numbered pages). Claims 40, 100 and 108 are independent claims, the latter two being independent method claims. In consideration of the comments regarding method claims made in the Detailed Action mailed on 12-23-03, the method claims have been re-written to clearly identify method steps and remove unnecessary language and hyphens. Newly added claims 114 and 115 are method claims dependent to amended method claim 100.

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2. A summary of the status identifiers of the claims is as follows:

GROUP 3600

- a. Claims shown as "Currently amended" are: 40, 42, 47, 60-66, 71, 76, 77, 84, 87, 88, 95, 94, 100 and 102-113
- b. Claims shown as "Previously amended" are: 41, 43-46, 48-55, 57-59, 67-70, 72-75
- c. Claims shown as "Previously added" are: 78-83, 85, 86, 89-92, 94-99
- d. Claims shown as "Cancelled" are: 56 and 101
- e. Claims shown as "New" are: 114 and 115

3. Method claims 100 and 105 have extensive amendments and therefore have large sections of text underlined to replace the previous older text which appears at the end of each claim in strike-through characters.

4. As per instructions of the PTO "Revised Amendment Format," claims shown as "Previously amended," "Previously added," and "New" are presented in clean versions without markings.

5. The total number of submitted claims remains the same with new claims 114 and 115 replacing cancelled claims 56 and 101.

6. NOTE: New method claim 114 was previously faxed to the examiner on March 30, 2004 as a sample method claim dependent to independent method claim 100.